

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/811,617

Applicant(s)

BLANCHON, CHARLES-GUILLAUME

Examiner

Mark Eashoo, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the papers filed 07-NOV-03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11 and 13-34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 020204.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Mark Eashoo, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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02/18/04

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney, Mr. Klifton L. Kime, on 17-FEB-2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim I (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other, the method comprising:

placing the sheet on the first portion of the open mold, said first portion comprising a die having a top portion, said top portion having a setback;

pressing the sheet against the first portion at at least one location without substantially stretching the sheet using at least one pusher mounted on the second portion of the mold and movable relative to said second portion, wherein at least one of the pushers having an end profile that corresponds substantially to the shape of the setback;

closing the mold, a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has closed;

compacting the sheet;

trimming off a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has

closed; and

unmolding the part.

Claim II (Currently Amended) A mold for forming a sheet of reinforced plastics material, the mold comprising:

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first and second portions that are movable relative to each other, said first portion comprising a die having a top portion, said top portion having a setback;

at least one pusher mounted on the second portion and movable relative thereto so as to press said sheet at least locally against the first portion before the mold is closed, wherein at least one of the pushers having an end of profile that corresponds substantially to the shape of the setback; and

at least one trimmer enabling the portion of the sheet that projects from the join plane to be trimmed off once the mold is closed, ~~at least one of the pushers having an end of profile that corresponds substantially to the shape of the setback.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other, the method comprising:

preheating the sheet;

placing the preheated sheet on the first portion of the open mold, said first portion comprising a die having a top portion, said top portion having a setback;

pressing the sheet against the first portion at at least one location using at least one pusher mounted on the second portion of the mold and movable relative to said second portion, wherein at least one of the pushers having an end profile that corresponds substantially to the shape of the setback;

closing the mold, a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has closed;

compacting the sheet;

trimming of the portion of the sheet that projects from the join plane using a trimmer that is movable relative to said second mold portion; and

unmolding the part.

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Claim 31 (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other and a plurality of pushers movably mounted on the second mold portion, the method comprising:

placing the sheet on the first portion of the open mold, said first portion comprising a die having a top portion, said top portion having a setback;

pressing the sheet against the first portion of the mold initially using at least one pusher situated substantially in the center of the mold without substantially stretching the sheet, and then progressively using other pushers, a pusher furthest from the center of the mold being actuated last, wherein at least one of the pushers having an end profile that corresponds substantially to the shape of the setback;

closing the mold;

compacting the sheet; and

unmolding the part.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments with regard to the setback, filed 07-NOV-2003, are persuasive. Claim II is amended only to improve claim clarity. All other of the above amendments were done to make the claims commensurate with applicant's argument.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Eashoo, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1197. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-3pm EST, Monday - Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaanni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Eashoo, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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